

Dear President and County Council members,

My name is Yin Zheng. I'm the parent of a Wootton High School student. I'm writing to share my deep concern about Wootton High School facility and support Wootton Renovation. My sons attended Wootton High School from 2008-2012, when they often talked about how dangerous the front drive way was where pedestrians and school buses share the same space; how narrow and crowded the hallway was and how bad the condition of bathrooms was. My daughter attended Wootton in 2019 when Wootton renovation was supposed to break the ground, but nothing happened since then, the renovation project was postponed to 2029. The infrastructure and condition at Wootton High School continued to deteriorate. Wootton's Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system was from 1970, it is aging with many problems. Wootton's bathrooms are also in a very bad condition. The air circulation is bad which imposes a hidden health Hazard to students, teachers and staff.

Even the football Turf field at Wootton High School has reached its end of the 10-year life. The recent GMAX tests that monitor the hardness of the field showed alarming high numbers signaling that continue to play on this field can cause severe injury.

Safety is the utmost concern of students and parents. As Montgomery County residents, we have paid so much taxes to support all good courses in the county, we want all of our county school facilities to be in a good condition so that teachers can focus on teaching and students focus on learning without being distracted by facility issues.

Wootton community is such a caring and supportive community where people help each other. Wootton PTSA has been hosting Annual Wootton Cluster Fall Festival that connected parents and students from six elementary schools and two middle schools. Wootton PTSA's Holiday Helping Hands program supports families in need of different schools.

I understand county's good intention to build brand new school for future planning purposes; however, should we prioritize capital improvement projects so that the needs of the school where current students, teachers and staff are severely impacted can be taken care first? All other MCPS high schools built in the 1970's or earlier have been renovated except Wootton High School and Magruder High School. It is time to take care of them.

I was so shocked to be alert that in 2018, ADA consultant hired by City of Rockville found 89 concerns about Wootton High School of which many still exist till today due to the original design of the building. It was heart-wrenching to know that students with disabilities at Wootton High School felt threaten and had trouble to evacuate to the safe place during fire drills. ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) is a federal law that our public schools should comply with.

Wootton High School renovation project has been repeatedly delayed despite of its known safety issue and ADA compliance issue. As a parent and constituent, I'm inviting you to visit Wootton High School and have a firsthand experience of the challenges that Wootton High School students, teachers and staff are facing every day. Help Wootton High School to get the renovation it desperately needs. No more delaying! Thank you for your time and attention.